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FBIS 38 (SEE 35)

CUBA

SOVIET ARMS FOR CUBA

MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH TO EUROPE 1713 2 SEP 62 L

(TEXT) MOSCOW--THE SOVIET UNION WILL HELP CUBA BUILD AN IRON AND STEEL PLANT AND EXPAND THE THREE IRON AND STEEL PLANTS ALREADY IN OPERATION. A CORRESPONDING SOVIET-CUBAN DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED IN MOSCOW AS A RESULT OF THE TALKS ERNESTO GUEVARA SERNA AND EMILIO ARAGONES NAVARRO HAD WITH NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV, ALEKSEY KOSYGIN, AND OTHER SOVIET STATESMEN.

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ATTENTIVELY CONSIDERED THE REQUEST OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT FOR HELPING IT WITH ARMS DELIVERIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE THREATS OF AGGRESSIVE IMPERIALIST ELEMENTS TO CUBA, AND AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON THIS QUESTION.

AS ANNOUNCED IN THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ON THE STAY IN THE USSR OF THE DELEGATION OF THE CUBAN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, DURING THE CONVERSATION OF ERNESTO GUEVARA SERNA AND EMILIO ARAGONES NAVARRO WITH NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV THEY EXCHANGED VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, AND ALSO ON QUESTIONS OF FURTHER CONSOLIDATING THE FRIENDLY FRATERNAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND CUBA.

WITH THE SOVIET UNION'S ASSISTANCE AN IRON AND STEEL PLANT WITH A COMPLETE METALLURGICAL CYCLE WILL BE BUILT IN CUBA ON THE BASIS OF THE IRON ORE RESERVES IT HAS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS RECOGNIZED AS EXPEDIENT TO RECONSTRUCT THE THREE IRON AND STEEL PLANTS NOW IN OPERATION TO RAISE THEIR TOTAL CAPACITY FROM 110,000 TO 350,000 TONS OF STEEL ANNUALLY.

MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURE WILL BE CONTINUED, SPECIFICALLY THROUGH DISPATCH OF SPECIALISTS TO CUBA TO WORK IN IRRIGATION, LAND RECLAMATION, AND THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING FIELD.

THE COMMUNIQUE FURTHER READS: "DURING THE STAY IN THE USSR OF ERNESTO GUEVARA SERNA AND EMILIO ARAGONES NAVARRO VIEWS WERE ALSO EXCHANGED IN CONNECTION WITH THE THREATS OF AGGRESSIVE IMPERIALIST QUARTERS AGAINST CUBA. IN VIEW OF THESE THREATS THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTED THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOR HELP BY DELIVERING ARMAMENTS AND SENDING TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS FOR TRAINING CUBAN SERVICEMEN.

"THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ATTENTIVELY CONSIDERED THIS REQUEST OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT AND AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THIS QUESTION. AS LONG AS THE ABOVE-MENTIONED QUARTERS CONTINUE THREATENING CUBA, THE CUBAN REPUBLIC HAS EVERY JUSTIFICATION FOR TAKING NECESSARY MEASURES TO INSURE ITS SECURITY AND SAFEGUARD ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE, WHILE CUBA'S TRUE FRIENDS HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO RESPOND TO THIS LEGITIMATE REQUEST."

THE CUBAN REPRESENTATIVES, IN THE USSR SINCE 27 AUGUST, LEFT FOR HOME TODAY.

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Approved for Release
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